

September Newsletter

For questions or details regarding any activities listed below, please send an email to church@lcuuc.org or call our church office at 262-369-1703.

Get Involved/Things to Do

Meditation Mondays

In September we will meet, as usual, on the second Monday of the month (September 10) for our Meditation Monday gathering. Our meeting will be led by Paul Norton of the Order of Interbeing. We meet from 7 to 9 pm at the church. Paul will offer instruction in meditation from 6:30 to 7 pm for beginners or those wishing to have a refresher. Over the next year we will loosely be using the book "A Path with Heart," by Jack Kornfield, as a guide. In September we will study chapters 10 and 11, but it is fine to come without having read the material. Meditation Mondays are free and open to all members, friends, and community members. Please call Joanne N. at the church office with any questions.

LCUUC Choir

"Music is an outburst of the soul." Frederick Delius

"After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." Aldous Huxley

Do you like to sing? Move your *heart* and *soul* and lift the spirit of *all* by singing in the LCUUC Choir. You'll find *joy* in singing with *others* in our multi-generational choir. So as the UU hymn goes *"Come, Come, Whoever you are...."*

We welcome singers from 6th grade through older than Robin R. (current record holder for most years in our choir.)

There are no auditions and reading music is not required. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:25 am and start September 9th. It's a great way to begin a day....with some deep breathing, singing and smiling. Contact Karen H. at the church office if you are interested.

Summer Book Groups

The final meeting of our summer book groups will take place on Sunday September 16 at noon at church. The topic is Revelations, from the Bible. Bring a lunch if you want (it can be placed in the church fridge during the service). This group is considering the possibility of continuing to meet into the autumn. Feel free to attend the discussion, even if you haven't participated in any of the other discussions over the summer.

Author and UU Minister Kate Braestrup to Talk and Sign Books

On Tuesday, September 25 at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church West will be host to an author visit. Kate Braestrup, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, has written a stirring memoir of her life as Chaplain for the Maine Wardens, who are in charge of state-owned land in Maine. She is often called out on search and rescue missions, and comforts and waits with families of those reported missing in the woods.

Kate's role in the process is quiet yet powerful. She rejoices with the parents of a six-year-old girl, when she is found alive after an exhaustive search. She is also the first to inform a wife that her husband did not make it out of a terrible snowmobile accident. She is there, often when nobody else is, to share smiles and tears of elation or, in other situations, the sobs of heartbreak. And, she has written about how these experiences change everyone involved, including herself, in her funny, frank, and truly unforgettable memoir.

She begins with her own story of tragedy, which led her to the UU ministry. Rev. Braestrup's true story, *Here If You Need Me*, has recently been published by Little Brown & Co. This book is receiving outstanding attention in the media. A large excerpt of Kate's book appeared in the August issue of Oprah Magazine.

The author will graciously autograph her book after the evening's talk and reading. Harry W. Schwartz booksellers will be present that evening to sell Kate's book for the convenience of attendees. This is not a fund raiser, and there is no cost to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Unitarian Universalist Church West is located at 13001 W. North Avenue in Brookfield.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee will be focusing this year on economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups. One way we plan to do this is by supporting the efforts of a newly emerging Waukesha housing trust fund coalition.

Housing trust funds finance local low-income housing projects and developments, and sometimes homeless and/or moderate-income projects, through ongoing dedicated sources of public revenues. The Social Action Committee has committed to support efforts to establish such a fund in our community by contacting local legislators about the issue in the future.

We are also looking for parishioners interested in attending the monthly planning meetings of the coalition. If you are interested in attending their September meeting, please contact the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee at 414-276-9050. For more information about housing trust funds, look at www.streetbeacon.com at the June 6 article, "Housing Trust Fund Coalition to launch regional efforts."

Hartland CROP Walk

LCUUC will be participating again in the Hartland CROP Walk. CROP walks are neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world, raising awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. This year's walk will be on October 7 at 1:00 pm. More info to come!

Our next Social Action Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm at LCUUC. If you have ideas for meaningful social action efforts that you would like LCUUC to be involved in, please join us at our meeting, or contact Kerry D. at the church office to share your ideas.

September Calendar of Events

Each Sunday	Church Service	10 am	LCUUC
Saturday, 8th	Harvest Art Fair	10 am—4 pm	LCUUC
Monday, 10th	Green Sanctuary Committee	7—9 pm	LCUUC
Monday, 10th	Meditation Monday	7—9 pm	LCUUC
Wednesday, 12th	Social Action Committee	6:30 pm	LCUUC
Saturday, 15th	Socrates' Café	7—9 pm	Milwaukee Street Traders, Delafield
All Tuesdays	SOS	7—8:30 pm	LCUUC (high school room)

Green Sanctuary

The LCUUC Green Sanctuary Committee exists to help us to be guided by the wisdom of the UU 7th Principle, to “respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” Our goals are to:

- Reduce our building’s environmental impact through energy conservation.
- Enhance our natural environment through our landscape plan.
- Develop a sense of place.
- Enlighten our congregation on the Green Sanctuary mission.
- Enlighten the community on sustainable practices.

We presented the Sunday April 22 “Earth Day” service to communicate our goals and what steps we are taking to realize them. Here is what we have accomplished thus far:

- Upgraded the kitchen and social hall fluorescent lighting to high-efficiency lamps and ballasts: This is complete. The net cost after an \$810 rebate was \$725; the net predicted annual energy savings is 3,500 KWh, or about \$360 at the present electric rate.
- Continued participation in the Waukesha County Adopt-A-Highway program (Highway E north of LCUUC): We did our spring and summer cleanups, and the fall cleanup is tentatively scheduled for October 6.
- Participated in the WE Energies “Energy for Tomorrow” program at the 25% level to promote renewable energy: This was approved by the Board, and we are now participating. Participation adds about 3.4% to our electric bill.
- Entered the Hartland Independence Day parade (July 1): LCUUC was there!

Additional steps “in the works” are:

- Install a bike rack: This is in the hands of the Facilities Committee.
- Formulate a naturalized landscape plan: This step needs Landscaping Committee participation.

- Host a “Choices for Sustainable Living” (from Great Lakes Earth Institute) discussion group, and one or two seminars open to the public: We will be discussing plans at our next meeting.
- Replace our refrigerator with an “Energy Star” one: This is probably not worth the expense while the present fridge is still working (would save only about \$60 per year).
- Look into a solar photovoltaic installation: We are waiting for results from the UU Church West solar PV installation to decide what to recommend.

The total projected energy savings for all lighting upgrades completed in 2006/2007 is 7,200 KWh (\$740) per year. We received \$930 in incentive payments; the net cost after incentives was \$780. Thanks to Greg S., Robert E., Joe M., Dave H., Mike B. and Esther F. for their help with these projects.

The next Green Sanctuary Committee meeting will be at LCUUC on September 10 at 7 pm.

Submitted by Gerry F.

A Note From Our New Minister

Greetings. It is good to be with you all. I look forward to an exciting year at Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church. Thanks to all of those on the ministerial search team and the Board for giving me this opportunity to serve as your half-time consulting minister.

After living and commuting between Oshkosh and Franklin, Wisconsin for the past year it is good to finally move all of my things and myself back down to Franklin. Working in Oshkosh as a Chaplain Resident at Mercy Medical Center afforded me rich experiences and allowed me the opportunity to be with people as they go through some of life’s greatest joys, like the birth of a child, to those of great sadness, like the death of a loved one. Through it all I have learned that life is a blessing and not to take a second of it for granted.

As I begin to find my way into this church community I hope that you will help me to get to know you better. Please feel free, for any reason, to call and leave me a message at the church office. I will be establishing office hours soon. In the meantime, if you’d like to meet, please call me to set up an appointment.

I am grateful for the goodness of the universe which brings us together. It is my hope for a year that will be wonderful for us all.

Take care,
Linda

On Board!

Welcome to a new addition to our monthly newsletter, On Board! This section is written by members of the LCUUC Board of Trustees to highlight the actions, thoughts, and workings of the Board.

What a summer it has been at LCUUC. We are thrilled to have on board our two new employees, Linda Berez (half-time Minister) and Mary Movsessian (half-time Director of Religious Education [DRE]). They have been busy transitioning into their new positions and

look forward to the September start of the new church year. Please, take time to welcome them to LCUUC.

After ten years of website and email management for LCUUC, Tom H. is hanging up his mouse. We want to thank Tom for his years of service to the church. We rely on technology so much these days that it was good to know Tom was there to keep it all running smoothly. Please join us in thanking Tom for his hard work.

The Board has been busy seeking out members to fill the large shoes Tom left behind. Many members have stepped up to the plate to fill these vacancies. Tim F. will be monitoring the church email. Karl T. will be our Listmaster in charge of email services. Erich M. will be our Webmaster. Erich will work with Bruce F., Ray G., and Kathie G. under the direction of the Publicity Committee to make needed updates and changes to our existing website.

LCUUC has Internet access! The board approved obtaining Internet access for the church to ease the at-home workload for the minister, DRE, and treasurer. At this time, this resource will be accessible only to Board members and employees until we develop policy on its use. To further assist the DRE, another computer has been purchased and will reside in the DRE office.

Last year the Board approved four new policies: Interim Policy on Safe Congregations, Alcohol Policy, Board Email List Policy, and Electronic Communications Policy. At our meeting in August, we also approved a Sign Policy. The Policies Manual is posted in the Social Hall. Take a look!

We have had a big start to the new church year. We look forward to working together to make LCUUC the best it can be.